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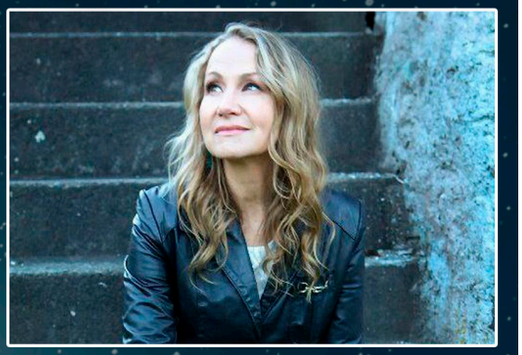

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Editor Ramblings By Josh Noll

Wow summer is coming to an end and live music is on a whirl wind in our area. There are so many shows happening that finding live music isn't the problem just deciding where you want to go is the new challenge. You don't have to look hard, you can glance through this issue and have plenty of choices for any weekend.

If you haven't been paying attention, and you may have missed the word, The Suicide Puppets are heading out on tour with Soulfly. The tour starts in Syracuse NY on the 4th and twists and winds its way through the heartland and ends up in El Paso TX on September 19th. Stopping in Chicago, Indianapolis, Louisville, Tallahassee, Atlanta, Birmingham and then over into Texas for a few shows to finish off the attack. It's so awesome seeing these guys rewarded from all the hard work they have been putting in. Getting a chance to perform and share a stage with Soulfly is an amazing opportunity and one the guys will certainly remember forever. Good luck Suicide Puppets! We love you! See you at your return to Johnny Joe's in October.

Way back, in the beginning of August, I did get to see the one and only Scott H. Biram. For those that are not familiar he has coined himself, The Dirty Old One Man Band and if you haven't figured it out the H. stands for "Fuck you". He stopped in to the "New" HMAC on a Sunday evening and it was an up close and personal show on the stage at Herr. Missy has been a fan and I am a sucker for a one man band so it was a no brainer. He put on a stellar show with his mad scientist pedal board for his voice, beats, and guitar tones. To his rack of favorite axes at his disposal, constantly switching from one to another. It was a great show and the New HMAC, while not a complete change up, has been revamped to give it a more modern feel and inviting atmosphere.

Now for something new and exciting we have guest editor, Missy Trucker's recap of a night of down home country fun with Zach King and the crew over at Tuscarora Records;

On Friday, July 30th Tuscarora Records (in partnership with Kingfish & Friends) hosted a backyard concert, nestled in the beautifully remote, Tuscarora State Forest. The event was one of a few in their 2021 summer concert series and was aimed towards a listening audience (think NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts or Austin City Limits), creating an environment of music and community. Joey Knouse kicked things off with an acoustic set of his own originals and covers, from the likes of Colter Wall, Sturgill Simpson and Tyler Childers. His emotion and sense of yearning was captivating and immediately gripped the attention of the audience. His original tune "These Old Pines" was a standout performance and aside from his vocals and guitar, there wasn't another sound to be heard in Sheaffer's Valley.

Next up was local legend and backyard favorite, Chubediah His humor and good heartedness resonated throughout his set list (think David Allan Coe or Sped Reed for you locals) with several audience sing-a-longs. He performed an original, "Old Stone Church", which showed depth and range. Chub received a well-deserved standing "O" when he closed his set with an a cappella rendition of "Amazing Grace".

Headlining the event were the boys from Nashville, Rylan Brooks with special guest Will Brown (from Philly), showcasing songs from their new record If Wishes Were Horses. As always, these troubadours tore things up with their ornery and rowdy ways, owning the stage and intoxicating the audience with their songwriting, musicianship and hell raising energy. Nate Rylan and Chris Brooks have an authentic outlaw sound, nothing overly polished and produced (THANK YOU!!), bringing real country grit and spit to their music and a sense of humor and relatability. Originals such as "Milan", "Easy Street", "One Time Woman" and "She Loved That Cocaine" showcased both their songwriting and performance abilities. Their style of country music set the stage for an authentic good time and kicked things into high gear while we all threw back a few cold ones under the Tuscarora stars. This a band that performs and delivers a damn good live show. See them!

It was a hell of a good time, officially put the "F" in my Friday and left me wanting more. As a special treat, and to round out the cool summer evening, People's Provisions was slingin' locally sourced, artisan, wood fired pizzas. Delicious. No false advertising here…the event was all about the music, the friendships and the community. Doesn't get much better than that.

Too bad Josh Noll missed it, as he was out on the PA Musician Magazine delivery trail. For more information and to be part of the scene, check out FB for Tuscarora Records, Kingfish & Friends, Rylan Brooks Country Music, Chubediah and People's Provisions.
—Missy Trucker

Hmm I may have to hire her full time she sure has a way with words. Must be why I love her so much. Tune in next month as we begin our battle with fall foliage as it takes over the mountains of PA. Remember just a few dollars a day can help us help you reach people you have not had in your establishment or in front of your mic, or shopping in your store. Advertising is easy, cheap and a great tax right off. Email Josh Noll at joshnoll@pamusician.net or call the Hotline where operators are standing by 717-636-4203.

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OUT 'N' ABOUT

By Rachel Rocks

September… ahhhh… my birthday month. I'm starting it off a few days early and I'm writing a very condensed article this month. I am cut very short on time and energy, afterall, I am getting old!

This month started out a very long time ago at the York Fair. If you haven't been to the York Fair for live music you should definitely make plans to check it out next year. They bring in amazing talent in all different genres, there is literally something for everyone. The first show was on Triple Play Tuesday, I saw was Kix, Slaughter, and Warrant. You could tell by the shirts in the pitt that most people were there for Kix! Steve said enough people complained about Kix being an opener that they already booked them to headline next year on a Wednesday. Kix put on one heck of a show, as always, and in my opinion they were the best act of the night. It's hard to believe though that Warrant was celebrating 30 years of Sweet Cherry Pie! Overall it was an awesome night of music, and I loved hearing live music on a Tuesday!

Halestorm

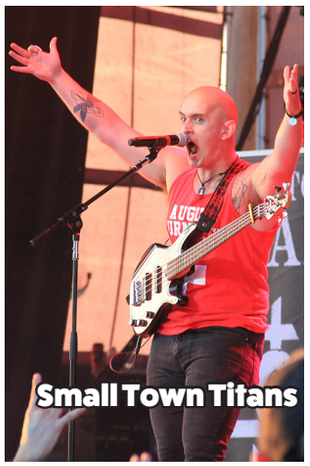
Then on Thursday, it was time for Silvertung, Seven Year Witch, and Adelita's Way at XL Live. It was crazy to hear how hard these bands have all been working even during the Pandemic. They were willing to travel anywhere in the world where they could perform, and in the process they built up quite a following. My favorite band this night was Seven Year Witch from South Carolina. I love the nitty gritty rock n'roll! These guys had crazy energy and an amazing stage presence. When Adelita's Way took the stage they still had a line at their merch table!

Friday night I wasn't going to go down to Halestorm and Small Town Titans at the York Fair, but then Brandon from the CPMHOF asked me to come down and shoot some pictures of him giving them their Hall of Fame plaque, so how could I refuse. I'll let Brandon tell you about our amazing backstage experience! All I know is Brandon was doing shots with the band while I was standing on an X with 7 foot Mr. T watching me closely.. Hmm.. ya think he might know me or something?!? HA! It's RITT'S FAULT!! I have to admit it was awesome seeing STT on a big stage, and it was super awesome when Lzzy came out and performed with them. If you missed check the WWW, there are tons of videos! It was also cool to hear Lzzy reminisce of the good old days starting out here in PA.

Kix

Kix

Like I didn't have enough excitement for one night I did swing in to XL Live for the Amish Outlaws on my way home. I caught the last couple of songs. Those guys are great performers and had XL Live packed! To FINALLY end this crazy first week of my article we headed to the Guns n' Roses concert at Hershey. What can I say, it was definitely the week of hair bands and rock n' roll. After a long day of tailgating parts of the concert were a blur, but I do remember bumping into Addi Grace's parents. If you haven't checked out Addi Grace yet, she's the youngest winner of a CPMA this year, and it is well deserved. That girl is a rock star!! Watch out Lzzy Hale!!! Addi Grace is coming for ya!!!


Small Town Titans

As if one crazy week was enough, it was Carnival Time! After missing out on all of the carnival fun last year, I made sure I hit up a few; played some Bingo, listened to some music, and ate lots of yummy foods, supporting the Firemen, Lions Club, or whatever I could! Carnivals are awesome! On a Thursday night The Marysville Lions Club Carnival had Back in Black! Say what?!? Yep.. I couldn't believe the crowd when I got there. If you've never been to Marysville for a band, it's kind of my dream set up, right underneath the band they sell delicious pizza! Pizza and Bands!!! And right behind that is root beer floats and funnel cakes.. Again, I love carnivals! Back in Black did an awesome job of keeping the fans very young to very old and everywhere in the middle rockin' the night away!

Friday night it was road trip time!! Down to Racehorse Tavern for Blind Accuracy and From Dawn Til Death. Blind Accuracy has advertised since their inception, but they are so patient with me, and never even harassed me to come see them, they just keep faithfully advertising. Well I'm thrilled to say all of their advertising paid off, and I finally made it to a show, and WOW I'm glad I did. What a great show! I haven't heard some good punk rock in a long time. It's awesome to see how all 4 of the guys groove together on the stage. They just have an awesome easy flowing vibe that made them super fun to enjoy! It was the first time I noticed a drum player having a kazoo mounted near his microphone, as if singing and playing drums isn't hard enough, Austin

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also plays the kazoo while drumming too! Next up From Dawn Till Death took the stage. These guy play a great mix of your favorite modern rock songs. Louis has an amazing voice and signs the songs so effortlessly! I'm glad I took the drive to Racehorse. It's always a great place to go listen to music, this night I also had some delicious quesadillas!

On my way home from Racehorse Tavern I did another quick stop at XL Live for a little bit of the Colt Wilbur Band. The Colt Wilbur Band had the dance floor full and everyone was having a great time. Another band I caught the tail end of Honeypump at the Annual Fredericksburg Eagle Hotel Customer Appreciation Party. I wish I wasn't so busy that day because again, Mike totally outdid himself with free food, booze, and entertainment! Since he tried to have it at the Sportsmen's Club for more space, he also enlisted a couple van drivers to shuttle people from the Hotel to the Club. The food was so delicious and the music was awesome too. Honeypump always puts on an amazing show.

After their show I zoomed to Johnny Joe's in Mechanicsburg for Observe the 93rd. Johnny Joe's just started having bands again, and it was my first time back since the pandemic. It was still just as crazy if not crazier. People were smooshed in dancing, moving, and groovin' to the music. Observe the 93rd shows are always nights full of lots of shenanigans, and this night definitely didn't disappoint!

On a Friday night I headed down to the River House Bar and Grill in Middletown for Devon Beck. I actually got an extra surprise when I got there her friend Nick Minahan was on stage playing a few songs while she took a break. Nick just recently started playing live and I have to say I admired his bravery! Devon is having the time of her life, splitting shows between Nashville and home. She's been learning so much and having tons of fun in the process.

continued on page 10...

September 2021

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Devon just keeps writing and releasing original music, I'm blown away by her talent! Do yourself a favor and like Devon's page on Facebook and keep up with all of her music and releases!

On a Thursday night after band practice, wait what? Yes folks, it's true. A friend asked me to play some ukulele at a benefit for the Millerstown Community Pool on October 2nd. I definitely did not have the guts to do it myself, but Holly's husband, Matt, will be joining me on stage. He will be playing guitar while I strum along on the ukulele. My hats are off to all of the true musicians out there, it is not easy learning new songs and retaining old songs. Matt and I are calling ourselves MRRocks. So get ready folks, it's gonna be a hootenanny of a good time. I just know it will be awesome getting Dad's ukulele back up on stage! Hopefully I can give it some kind of justice.

So anyway, on a Thursday we bopped over to Boneshire for a little live music and pizza. Boneshire recently added pizza to their menu, and it is so delicious! Dave Gates was on stage and we had a blast singing and dancing along. It was a great pitstop for good food, delicious beer, and awesome music!

On a Friday night I did another pitstop in at XL Live for Smooth Like Clyde. I was glad to see the dance floor hopping with people have a fantastic time. I think the Smooth Like Clyde boys must be hanging out too much with D'Bo. You should see some of their choreographed dance moves. If I wouldn't know any better I thought they were "Doing the D'Bo"!

To finish off the night we zoomed out to Hollywood Casino for Latimore Sky. It's awesome seeing new bands get some stage time on the Hollywood Stage. Latimore Sky was having a blast up there, and we had a blast dancing along on Hollywood's nice big dance floor! Latimore Sky has really been climbing the music charts with their original music. Give 'em a like on Facebook and follow along on their journey, or better yet, check out their ad in this issue and get out there for a show!

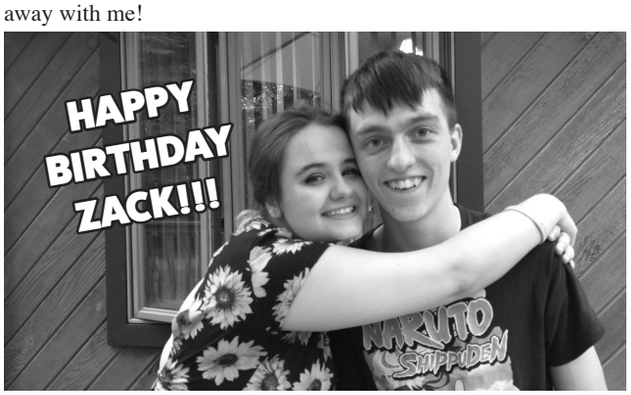
One band I've been waiting patiently to see again was Steel. I'm thrilled to say they are finally hitting the stage again! I heard them at Rockin' the Hill to support the local fire company. It was a great show with three bands. We unfortunately didn't get there in time for the other two bands, but I heard everyone put on a great show. Steel put on an amazing show and I didn't want the fun to end. They just played one really long set, and it felt so good to dance, headbang, and sing along! Steel has some other shows coming up throughout September and October. I'm so glad that music is back and in full swing!

I ended the month with another special Wednesday night show at Mt. Gretna Hideaway to see DMC Duo. One thing I've greatly learned to have lots of respect for is musicians that keep a good tempo. Darrell has the tempo down to a science, so much so that they even had country line dancers dancing along! DMC Duo's schedule is packed full of shows. It's awesome to see them doing so well in the Duo Land.

Whoo! That's it.. Short, sweet, and to the point. I can't stop talking about how awesome it is to have so many amazing music choices every Friday, Saturday, and beyond. I think my good friend Sabrina summed up my life pretty good: "Girl! You're like a spring that's been let go now that there's live music, you're running around and gobbling up everything that you can after not being able to go out for over a year!".. Yep, pretty much sums up my life. I am just trying as hard as I can to get out there and support it all! I wish most nights I could clone myself because there are so many places I want to be!

This month looks like it's going to be off the hook crazy with even more choices. Labor Day Weekend kicks off with not only the Kipona Festival in downtown Harrisburg, but also the Musica Health to Wealth Festival at the South Mountain Fairgrounds! That's also 3 days worth of music and fun! There are camping options and plenty of hotels nearby, so party safe! Sept. 11th is not only my baby, Zack Boob's 19th Birthday, but also The Fogleman's Wounded Warrior Benefit Show, that is an annual show that keeps getting bigger and crazier every year! Then the 18th it's time for Space's Annual Children's Miracle Network show with live music from 11am to 11pm! Those are just 3 major shows that I can quickly spout out, I'm sure there is even more going on. Please pick up a magazine and get out there and support our advertisers! And make sure and tell them you saw it in the PA Musician Magazine!

That's all for this month! If you see me Out and About, please stop me and say Hi! And then get out there and dance the night away with me!



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NATIONALS

By Eric Hoffman

Greetings Rockers 'N' Rollers! Last month began with the return of Bright Eyes at Bethlehem's SteelStacks. It was the band's first tour in 10 years, they also released a new album last year titled, "Down in the Weeds, Where the World Once Was." Guns N Roses began the first night of their "We're F'n Back! Tour" at Hersheypark Stadium on July 31. Green Day also returned to the Stadium on Aug 13 with the Hella Mega Tour featuring Fall Out Boy, Weezer and The Interrupters. Harrisburg University also began their concert series downtown at Riverfront Park on Aug 27 with Young The Giant. A really great venue with a beautiful backdrop of downtown and the Susquehanna River. Harrisburg University will also bring; Jason Isbell, All Time Low, Grouplove, Cage The Elephant, Dawes, Portugal the Man, Frank Turner, Black Pumas, Saint Motel, Bishop Briggs and many more. The month ended with Dead & Co. at Hersheypark Stadium on Aug 28, the supergroup consisting of John Mayer, Grateful Dead members Bob Weir, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann, Oteil Burbridge, and Jeff Chimenti put on an amazing show.

There were great local band shows in August including Jet Silver on the 14th at American Bar & Grill in Lancaster, Timmy's Creepshow on 19th at Molly Pitchers in Carlisle, and Shea & Swish at Marysville Waterfront on the 20th. The highlight concert of the month involved a trip to Brooklyn, New York to see Wyldlife at the venue TV Eye. A fantastic young punk band that originated in 2009 and have great songs and tremendous energy. Wyldlife have released 3 studio albums, their latest called 'Year of the Snake.'

NATIONAL NEWS: Charlie Watts, the Rolling Stones drummer who helped anchor one of rock's greatest rhythms sections and used his "day job" to support his enduring love of jazz, died at the age of 80 on Aug 24. A spokesperson stated, "He passed away peacefully in a London hospital surrounded by his family." Last month, Watts had announced he would not tour with the Stones in 2021 because of an undefined health issue. He joined the Stones early in 1963 and remained over the next 60 years, ranked just behind Mick Jagger and Keith Richards as the group's longest lasting and most essential member. Watts was a jazz drummer in his early years and never lost his affinity for the music he first loved, heading his own jazz band and taking on numerous other side projects.

Don Everly, one-half of the pioneering Everly Brothers whose harmonizing country rock hits impacted a generation of rock 'n' roll music, died at the age of 84. Everly died at his home in Nashville, Tennessee, on Aug 21. His brother, Phil Everly, died in January 2014 at age 74. Their 19 top 40 hits included "Bye Bye Love," "Let It Be Me," "All I Have to Do Is Dream" and "Wake Up Little Susie." The two broke up amid quarreling in 1973 after 16 years of hits, then reunited in 1983, "sealing it with a hug," Phil Everly said. Their breakup came dramatically during a concert at Knott's Berry Farm in California. Phil Everly threw his guitar down and walked off, prompting Don Everly to tell the crowd, "The Everly Brothers died 10 years ago."

Many many artists are cancelling tours and shows due to the rising COVID cases across the country. The Pixies cancelled its 11-date September run. The band said it had "determined that with the current surge in COVID cases made worse by the Delta variant, this is the right decision for their fans, crew members and themselves, and ask that their fans stay safe and healthy." Widespread Panic also broke the news that it was postponing

continued on next page...

their shows because of the spread of the Delta variant. Earlier this month Widespread Panic singer/guitarist John Bell announced he had tested positive for COVID. Other artists who have recently switched up their tour schedules because of COVID include Garth Brooks, Florida Georgia Line, BTS, Neil Young, Nine Inch Nails, The String Cheese Incident and Korn. Korn has announced it is rescheduling six shows and canceling two dates of its upcoming shows after frontman Jonathan Davis tested positive for COVID. Michael Bublé postponed 10 of his US tour dates concerned with the "rising number of Coronavirus infections that continue to sweep America led him to this decision." "I do not want to put my fans at risk, nor my band and crew, by putting them in a situation that could possibly affect their health and therefore their friends and family." Fall Out Boy missed two shows on the "Hella Mega" stadium tour co-headlined by the band along with Green Day and Weezer after someone on Fall Out Boy's team tested positive for COVID-19. Phoebe Bridgers is going to take it outside. With rising COVID cases across the country, the indie rocker announced that she's moving indoor shows on her fall "Reunion Tour" to outdoor venues and updated the tour's health and safety requirements.

Music venues are beginning to require vaccinations or negative COVID results for events. Live Nation's COVID strategy has been further clarified, with the company saying that, as of Oct. 4, all artists and fans to will be required to show proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test before attending events at its fully owned and operated venues and festivals in the U.S. "Vaccines are going to be your ticket back to shows, and as of October 4th we will be following the model we developed for Lollapalooza and requiring this for artists, fans and employees at Live Nation venues and festivals everywhere possible in the US."

The Offspring' drummer will not play on the band's current tour. Drummer, Pete Parada, claims that the rest of the pop punk band doesn't want him on its upcoming tour dates because the drummer has declined to get the COVID-19 vaccine. He explained that his doctor advised him not to get the vaccine because of his "personal medical history and the side-effect profile of these jabs." The drummer added, "I caught the virus over a year ago, it was mild for me – so I am confident I'd be able to handle it again" Parada, who has played drums with The Offspring since 2007, didn't specifically say he's been fired from the band but noted, "Since I am unable to comply with what is increasingly becoming an industry mandate – it has recently been decided that I am unsafe to be around, in the studio, and on tour. I have no negative feelings towards my band," Parada wrote. "They're doing what they believe is best for them, while I am doing the same. Wishing the entire OFFSPRING family all the best as they get back at it! I'm heartbroken not to be seeing my road community, and I will miss connecting with the fans more than I can express in words.

Insane Clown Posse made a heartfelt announcement onstage revealing Violent J has been suffering from heart failure. As a result, ICP will embark on a farewell tour next year. Violent J has noticeably slimmed down over the years. The rapper chose to lose weight after suffering from serious knee issues, which were exacerbated by his obesity. Violent J stated he felt winded just from short walks, "We went to the hospital to see what's going on. They did an ultrasound. I was told to go straight home, get in bed. In the morning they told me to go back to the hospital. Doctors basically just came out and told me I have heart failure. That scared the shit out of me." He underwent multiple procedures to treat Atrial Fibrillation, but continued to experience an irregular heartbeat. ICP plans to do one more world tour in 2022.

continued on next page…

Tina, Dave Feldman of Wyldllife, Eric

Eric, Tre Cool of Green Day and Tina

" I may be going to hell in a bucket, babe, but at least I'm enjoying the ride."

Hours:
Thursday & Friday 5pm-10pm
Saturday Noon-10pm
Sunday 2pm -9pm

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SEPTEMBER ENTERTAINMENT

Friday Music
3rd - General Semantics 7pm-10pm
10th - Kirk Folk 7pm-10pm
17th - Dan Jamison 7pm-10pm
24th - Shea & Swish 7pm-10pm

Thursday – Open Mic Night 7PM
2nd, 16th, 30th– Hosted by Bjorn Jacobsen
9th & 23rd -Hosted by Dan Jamison

Saturday Music
4th - Time Brothers 2pm-5pm
Matt & Jeff 7pm-10pm
11th - Joe Cigan 2pm-5pm
Jim Lewis 7pm-10pm
18th - Suzi Brown 2pm-5pm
Dave Heilman 7pm-10pm
25th - Berkley 2pm-5pm
Flurry & Emory 7pm-10pm

Sunday Music
5th - Dead Horse Duo 5pm-8pm
12th - Nate Myers 4pm-8pm
19th - ADG - Aaron Daniel Gaul 4pm-8pm
26th - Rhyne & Casey 5pm-8pm

BEER LIST

1. Double Sunshine Daydream
Pale Ale- American-6.9% ABV
5oz draft $3-13oz $5-16oz $6-32oz $12
2. Steal Your Face 2020
Farmhouse Ale- Saison-8.3% ABV
50z draft $3-13oz $6-32oz $13
3. Terrapin Tripel
Belgian Tripel-9% ABV
50z draft $3-13oz $6-32oz $13
4. Terrapin Over Cherries 2021
Belgian Tripel-11.3% ABV
5oz draft $4-13oz $8
5. Playing In The Bock
Bock-Single-6%ABV
5oz draft $3-13oz $5-16oz $6 32oz $12
6.August West Coast IPA
IPA- American-6.9% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $5- 16oz $6- 32oz $12
7. Dark Star Stout
Stout- American- 8.3% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $5- 16oz $6- 32oz $12
8. Black Cherry
Cider-Traditional- 5.5%ABV
5oz draft $4- 13oz $8
9. Snow White Tan Pilsner
Pilsner- Czech- 5.4% ABV
5oz draft $3-13oz $5- 16oz $6-32oz $12
10. Dark Star Stout From The Barrel
Stout- American- 8.5% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $8
11. New Potato Caboose
IPA- New England- 7.4% ABV
5oz draft $3- 13oz $5- 16oz $6- 32oz $12

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The Cure bassist, Simon Gallup, says he's left the band "with a slight heavy heart," writing that he's "fed up of betrayal." Gallup joined the band in 1979 and is The Cure's second longest-serving member behind Robert Smith. Gallup stated of the band, "Good luck to them all ..." In 2018, Robert Smith said that if Gallup were to leave the band, then "it wouldn't be called The Cure." Smith added that he and Simon's relationship is "without question" the most dangerous combination within The Cure. "For me, the heart of the live band has always been Simon, and he's always been my best friend," Smith said.

A new lawsuit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court accuses Bob Dylan of having drugged and sexually abused a 12-year-old girl in 1965. The suit claims, Dylan, aka Robert Allen Zimmerman, allegedly supplied the girl with drugs and alcohol, establishing a relationship for the purpose of sexually abusing the pre-teen. The plaintiff claims to be "depressed, angry and anxious and suffers from issues related to it to this day." Dylan's representative stated, "The 56-year-old claim is untrue and will be vigorously defended."

Spencer Elden, the man photographed as an infant for the cover of Nirvana's Nevermind album, has filed a lawsuit against the band alleging "child pornography." Elden has often expressed frustration over the image, because he was so young he couldn't consent to such an image. Nevermind has sold more than 30 million copies worldwide and is generally considered the most important rock album of the 1990s.

SEPTEMBER CONCERTS: The Ocean Blue - Lancaster Tellus 360 Sept 4. Judas Priest - Reading Santander Sept 8. King Of Leon - Merriweather Post Sept 10. Inhaler - NYC Mercury Lounge Sept 16. Dirty Looks - Selinsgrove Speedway Sept 18. The Menzingers - Lancaster Tellus 360 Sept 18. The Killers - Bethlehem Wind Creek Sept 21. Cage The Elephant - Harrisburg Riverfront Park Sept 23.

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9/11 Hat Creek Farms, Carlisle PA 7-10pm
10/3 Dirt Stock 2021, Mechanicsburg PA
(new date/new location watch our fB page for more details)
10/16 Private Party
10/23 Johnny Joe's w/South Mtn. Social, Mechanicsburg PA
12/18 McSherrystown Moose Club, McSherrystown PA

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Hell In A Bucket Brewery is a new brewery just off the bridge in Wrightsville, PA. Jeff Neighbors, PhD and Matt Zornig started their business at the end of 2019. We all know it wasn't a perfect time to start a business, but even through a Pandemic they have persevered. I went down to Hell In A Bucket and I instantly loved the atmosphere. It's right across the street from the river, and the inside is so colorful and so inviting, and the beers are absolutely delicious! I love the small, hometown bars where everybody knows your name. The main theme of Hell In A Bucket is the Grateful Dead, and it definitely puts out the vibe of a great place to just chill, have a good time, and listen to great music!

I recently asked Jeff and Matt some questions about how Hell In A Bucket came to fruition. Check it out and plan your trip down to Hell In A Bucket Brewery soon;

Rachel Rocks: I know there are two brewers.. How did you two meet? What made you decide to start brewing your own beers? Please introduce yourselves, and tell me about your history?

Matt Zornig: I met Dr. Neighbors 20 years ago in Iowa City, IA. This was at the front table at George's Buffet. This is the Algonquin Round Table for degenerate drunks. I was a software engineer for 23 years. My alma mater is the University Of Iowa. I figured if I worked one more day at desk under fluorescent lighting, I was going to stab someone in the face with a fork. I did some home brewing in college, but Jeff is really the brewer. I just follow his orders.

Jeff Neighbors, PhD: Matt is right we met at George's in Iowa City, he was really learning how much he did not like being a computer programmer as you can tell from his comments. We played a lot of poker and drank cheap beer, which really helped end the day after working 10 hours on my PhD in chemistry. I started home brewing in that period with another friend after I discovered craft beer. I was always a fan of some of the original craft beers like Anchor, and couldn't afford them as a grad student so started brewing. Matt and I brewed a couple of batches over the years. I moved to PA in 2014 to take a full-time job here (which I still have) and when Matt decided to really quit the daily grind in Iowa he suggested maybe we could start a brewery. We brew on Saturdays when I have time and he takes care of all the rest of the work for the brewery, so it is a team effort. I suppose it did stop him from the fork thing which is good.

RR: Please tell me more about the name, your logo, etc. How did you come up with it? What's the story behind it?

Matt: Hell In A Bucket comes from a song by the Grateful Dead. Lyrics are by John Barlow. The music is from Bob Weir and Brent Mydland. The logo was created by artist Summer Walters. It is a depiction of Charon, from Greek mythology, who ferried souls to the afterlife over the river Styx.

Jeff: I am a dead head from way back, saw my first show in 1980 at the Des Moines civic center, saw a total of 74 shows. We had to have a theme and so we went with the various music we are into, we have had references to Neil Young and Frank Zappa in our various beers as well as the Grateful Dead. There are some many interesting lines in all the song lyrics, it is really a great trove of weird beer names.

Matt Zornig

RR: I know obviously you have a Grateful Dead theme.. but tell me more about how you choose what kind of beers to make?

Matt: We like Belgian beers. Also, pale ales and stouts. And IPAs. We only make beers we like to drink.

Jeff: I like all our beers and drink all of them, I really only drink craft beer that is local and small batch from some of my favorite brewers and of course our own. Interesting note, Matt says I am the brewer, but I had never made a Belgian beer prior to Hell In A Bucket, and I charged him with coming up with a recipe for the Steal Your Face Saison. It is just great and now we make a Belgian Triple that is one of our flag-ship beers as well, I like them now, and find the complex flavors really fun to work with. My personal favorite of our is the Dark Star Stout. We really wanted to make a nice variety of beers and it plays to my enjoyment of experimental science.

Jeff Neighbors, PhD

RR: I see the mention of River Hills Hop Farm? Is that a local Hop Farm?

Jeff: Indeed we have been using River Hills Hops in Mount Wolf as the sole hop in our Sunshine Daydream Pale ale, Dark Star stout and the Cripple Creek Ferry Kolsch, so we really like them. We use local when we can for things but there isn't too much variety of local malts and yeasts, so the hops is where we have been able to source from PA the easiest.

RR: I love the personal touch of having water and soda for people. That is nice for the DDs and non-drinkers. Are there any other personal touches that you feel help you stand out from the rest?

Matt: We have a lovely display of Rick And Morty on the wall. And a deer head called Sven that guards the cooler.

Jeff: Yes, Sven is the guardian of the cooler, the taxidermy of a mule deer which Matt's father shot, it is a nice nod to both of our rural roots — I was an avid hunter when I was a youngster. I also have a display of a bunch of tickets from concerts I went to in the late 80's and early 90's on the wall. And as Matt says we have some more recent things like our collection of Rick and Morty figures, which remind us in the words of Bird Person, that we are "down to clown" on occasion.

RR: We obviously love how much you support live music! You have the Open Mic on Thursdays and live music every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings? Correct?

Jeff: That is correct we have Open Mic on Thursday evening, and music on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It goes back to our love of music in general, in fact we went to see Dead & Company in Hershey on Saturday the 28th of August, so if any of you have an in with them, tell them to stop in for a beer sometime.

RR: Is Sound Provided or do bands provide their own? Who would bands/musicians contact to play at the Brewery?

Matt: Joseph Daub has his own sound system that people can plug into. We are normally contacted via Facebook.

Jeff: Yep, our bar manager Joseph Daub has a system that he was kind enough to bring in so we can be a plug and play place for some acts. He handles all the booking for the brewery and we can get that via social media, or by contacting him.

RR: Do you have any plans for expanding? Or any ideas brewing for the future of Hell in a Bucket Brewery?

Jeff: We are trying to make it through the roughness of the last 18 months of pandemic and eventually would love to grow the business to a bigger brewing system. This has been a challenging time to start a brewery and so we are taking it slow, but I think you will see some expansion of Hell In A Bucket eventually, we will keep you posted.

RR: Do you have any special events or anything special to promote coming up?

Matt: We currently have our beer served at the Lancaster Barnstormers ballpark. We are looking to have it served at other taverns/restaurants

Jeff: Yes, we are having a tasting night at the Craft Beer Bar at Clipper Magazine Stadium on 9/11/2021, there will be fireworks and a great baseball game.

RR: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me about your Brewery or yourselves?

Matt: We have all of our shots and are mostly well groomed. Mostly.

Jeff: I am laughing at Matt's response, I think we are both dedicated to making great beer, and listening to good music, that is what you get at Hell In A Bucket. I am a scientist at heart, and I love experimenting with new beers and new styles so everyone will have that to look forward to from us. In any spare time I have left I ride my bike a lot, so look for me on the local bike trails, I will be wearing that signature Hell In A Bucket Tie-Dye.

RR: Anyone you'd like to thank for helping you get started? Or Keep Going?

Matt: Mike from Moo-Duck was a big help. We did a collab with him.

Jeff: Yeah, I would like to thank Mike one of the Owners/Brewer at Moo Duck Brewing in Elizabethtown. He inspired me to dive into the brewery. They are a great small brewery as well, and also support live music.

Joseph Daub is the best bartender I have ever worked with, and he really is helping drive the success of Hell In A Bucket. We couldn't do what we do without him.

If you are looking for a place to chill, have some good beers and listen to great music, Hell In A Bucket Brewery is for you. Also, they don't sell food, but you can bring food in, or have it delivered. Hell In A Bucket Brewery is open Thursday and Friday from 5pm-10pm, Saturday from Noon to 10pm, and Sunday from (NEW HOURS) 2pm-5pm. Do yourself a favor and plan your next night out on the town at Hell In A Bucket Brewery. Check out their schedule and beer list on page 12.

Interview by Rachel Rocks / photos by Sarah Neighbors

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RIDER'S ON THE STORM

By Chris Rider

August came...August went...It was a bit of a blur, but with great music all over the place. Venues, bands, and music fans alike are getting out and enjoying live music. Rules and restrictions vary from place to place, but regardless of your stance on the rules various places have put in place, no-one can doubt that the venues are doing it with only the best of intentions for everyone involved and in an effort to keep live music going. I understand that sometimes it can get a bit frustrating...but I ask that we all keep in mind why we go to these shows in the first place. So with all that being said...here's a look back at the last month or so of live music for me.

I started out at Sherman's Creek Inn for The Juice, a local 5 piece band covering a wide variety of classic rock and roll from Tom Petty to Sheryl Crow, as well as a few originals. They did a good job getting folks up and dancing and having a great night.

The Juice

Next trip out was up to hang with my friends at Isle of Que Brewing, and the fellas in Prairie Dogma. Prairie Dogma has seen a few lineup changes over the last year or so and currently consists of Michael Lundy on guitar and vocals, Tyler Henry on bass and David Jackson on percussion. Playing a variety of Folk/Americana covers including a few Grateful Dead tunes, as well as their original "It's Good To Be Back" which they'd written just three days prior, these guys put on a great show. It felt good seeing them play again as they always do a great job of entertaining the crowd with their music, as well as short stories in between regarding their song choices and song writing.

I then headed down to HMAC after an invite from my buddies in Elsewhere for a night of metal in the Capital Room on the big stage. Elsewhere opened up the evening with a 45 minute set that got the crowd cranked up quickly to the point of even having a small mosh pit open up in the middle of the floor. These guys were pure energy from beginning to end and did a fantastic job opening the evening.

Following Elsewhere, Portland Oregon based Veio hit the stage for a hard hitting set with a unique punk/metal sort of vibe to it. They had a very powerful and clean sound to them that I enjoyed and lead singer Cameron was rocking one of the coolest mustaches I've seen in a while LOL. They have a number of videos up on Youtube, both originals and covers, and are definitely worth checking out.

Next up was Lexington, KY based Picturesque...a rock band with a hardcore pop/rock sound to them, they formed originally in 2014 and have several EP's available and can be heard on Spotify and most other streaming platforms, as well as a number of videos on youtube. Vocalist Kyle Hollis hit the stage at 100 miles an hour, and never slowed down. I will never understand how singers can move like he did while singing with such passion at the same time, but he did a great job of it and certainly made me work to get a few good pictures while he did LOL. I had not heard of these guys previously, but they've definitely been added to my playlists for future listening.

Headlining the evening, and their 19 show tour celebrating the 10th anniversary of their release "The Emptiness", was Raleigh, NC based post-hardcore rock band Alesana. Formed in 2004, with multiple releases, these guys thrive on "Positive Mental Attitude", their mantra throughout their music, and their lives. I was lucky enough to meet a few of the guys prior to the show and have to say, they were awesome. Very positive guys, happy to be there, and just happy to be out playing their music for their fans again. These guys hit the stage for a nice sized crowd that was ready to receive their huge blast of positive energy. What an awesome show these guys, and all the bands this evening for that matter, put on. Look each of them up on Facebook, on Spotify, or whatever other streaming platform you use, give them a like and some support.

My next night out was one I'd been looking forward to for well over a year. Originally scheduled for August of 2020, it got bumped to 2021 like a lot of shows last year. Opening up the evening at Spyglass Ridge Winery was Williamsport native Gabe Stillman, with his 3 piece Gabe Stillman Band. The trio's music is very heavily rooted in the blues, but has an Americana Rock flavor to it that is unmistakable. He plays with an energy and drive that is captivating, whether it's a cover of Stevie Ray Vaughan, or one of his originals, his music just drives hard from the first song of the set to the last. All of his music can be found on most streaming and digital outlets, as well as cd's available on Gabe's website (https://www.gabestillman.com/) and many local music stores.

Gabe Stillman Band

The second act of the evening, while not the headliner, was the one I was there for as he's been an absolute favorite of mine for over 10 years. JJ Grey is out of Jacksonville Florida, and has a way of singing about life that just draws me in. Something about his raw, blue-collar delivery of every song of his just connects with me on a root level that I love. His music has influences from the blues, to rock, to funk, to Americana...he has a way with words that just draws an audience in. I left that night over-hearing many people saying they'd never heard of him prior to this show, but they'd never forget him. His song list this evening included several of my personal favorites, including "Sun Is Shining", a song that has a deep and personal meaning to me. This was my third time seeing JJ play, and I was fortunate enough to meet him after his show for just a few minutes, share a quick conversation with him and of course get a picture with him that I'll treasure for a long time. If you haven't heard any of JJ's music, it can be found just about anywhere online including Spotify and Youtube.

JJ Grey

The headliner of the evening was a band that I've listened to for a long time, as many have, but this was my first time seeing them play live. Blues Traveler came out and started out their show with a number of deeper cuts, some I've never heard before myself...then playing some of their more popular tunes like Runaround, as well as some covers including one originally by 311. It was pretty cool seeing a band I've heard for so long bring their music to life on stage in front of a huge crowd like this.

My final show for the month (well, at least for this article), was actually here at my new home. I've been here for a few months, but finally got around to having a house-warming party. I was fortunate enough to have my buddy Dave Gates swing by and play for a few hours for a bunch of my friends. Dave covers a huge list of songs (check out his list of covers and originals at davegates.org), and played a number of my favorites including Riders On The Storm, Walking in Memphis, Midnight Rider, and All Along The Watchtower. Dave definitely made it one for the books, my best party yet LOL.

So there it is, my month of music through my eyes and ears. Just a reminder: if you've got a show coming up that I should see, make sure to send me an invite, shoot me an email or a message, let me know about it. Venues: please don't hesitate to reach out to me as well. The majority of the shows that I go and shoot I find out about through invites from all of you or your friends. Hit me up on facebook: @chrisriderphotography or email: chrisriderphotography@gmail.com, stop me if you see me out & around and say hi. Until next month...go find some live music and give them and the venue your support, they truly need it more now than they ever did.

Dave Gates

THE PROFESSOR

By Jim Price

With live music returning to some semblance of normalcy this summer following the debacle of last year, I again find myself faced with a familiar but ultimately pleasant dilemma – since last month's deadline, I have seen at least 44 different bands, performers and performances. How do I fit them all into one PA Musician article? We're about to find out…hold my beer.

Most of the aforementioned performances happened outdoors… The Southern Rock Wood Stock event at Wagon Wheel Amphitheater near Philipsburg in late July provided a fun, music-filled day while raising funds and awareness for the Homeless Warriors charity. Seven bands took the stage this day, starting with Sony Music Nashville-based country artist Gary Burk III. From Pittsburgh, Gary and his band performed a mix of original songs and country favorites. Some of Gary's originals included "I'm Not Ready," written after learning that his dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer; his current single "Two Lane Airplane and his next single "Free Bird Kiss," which was tagged with the homestretch ending to Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird." Next was Harrisburg's Buckskin Whiskey. Josh Saussaman provided the gritty lead vocal, flanked by lead guitarist Zach Beers, rhythm guitarist and pedal steel player Koedee Gordon, keyboardist Alex Cassel, bassist Bryan Sentz and drummer Dan Almoney. The group performed their original tunes plus classics from the southern rock realm. After opening with Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Workin' for MCA," Buckskin Whiskey did songs off their "Roll On" debut EP such as the rowdy "Outta Tennessee," "Sleepin' Around" and "Hell Hounds of El Dorado," as well as a newer song not on the EP, "65 and Climbing." They also did numbers from Gregg Allman, the Allman Brothers, Molly Hatchet, and another Skynyrd favorite, "I Know a Little," and – like Gary Burk III before them – tagged their EP title song "Roll On" with the roaring Skynyrd "Free Bird" homestretch finish to end their set. Up next was The John Wayne Band. Based in Nashville, the group is not named after the famous actor, but the group's 12-year-old drummer, who showed excellent drumming skills on the group's set of mostly original rock'n'roll numbers. Also in the group was 15-year-old guitarist and singer Jake Nichols, and Southern Rock Wood Stock founder and organizer Clark Chambers on keys and vocals. Baltimore trio Indianhead followed with their harder-hitting style of swamp-toned grunge metal. Guitarist Grant Walker fronted the group with a hearty and gritty howl, alongside bassist Ellis Tinsley and drummer Chris Weal. The group did numerous original songs, including several from their latest album, "Songs from the Deluge," plus a heavier read of the Allman Brothers' "Whipping Post." Dallas Texas-based trio Anything But Human next introduced their brand of melody-geared hard modern rock. The group showcased their origjnal song arsenal, which included such numbers as "Arise," "The Road" and more, and also closed with a dramatic hard-rocking take on the Beatles' "Eleanor Rigby." Kid Rock tribute Rebel Soul then elevated the party with their rowdy celebration of Kid Rock's song catalog. Singer Michael Arscott did a great job in the Kid Rock role, pulling all stops to get the large crowd into the party. Mostly all of the Kid Rock song favorites were performed; including the opener "Son of Detroit," "So Hott," "I Am the Bullgod," "American Bad Ass," "Picture" (with a female guest singer), "All Summer Long" and "Bawitdaba," plus Kid Rock's fusion of the Allman Brothers' "Midnight Rider" into "Cowboy." When the jubilant crowd yelled for an encore, Rebel Soul answered with one more, "Redneck Paradise." Headliners the Southern Mules finished out the day. The superstar band of Southern Rock Wood Stock, this group has featured former members and sidemen of a number of southern rock and other national touring bands since their formation in the 1990s. Their roster this day included former Johnny Van Zant guitarist Erik Lundgren, drummer Mark Wells (who performed alongside Lynyrd Skynyrd's Artimus Pyle), singer Herb Burcham, the aforementioned Clark Chambers (who has worked with Lynyrd Skynyrd, Blackfoot, the Artimus Pyle Band and more) on keys and vocals, and backing singers Kim and Ashlee Chambers. The Southern Mules celebrated

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classics from throughout the southern rock catalog, including lots of Lynyrd Skynyrd, plus favorites from Blackfoot, Molly Hatchet, Allman Brothers, .38 Special and more. To end the day, the group answered multiple requests with their glorious rendition of – you guessed it – Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Free Bird."

That wasn't the only "Woodstock" event I saw recently, as I headed to Hastings Woodstock in late July at Hastings Park & Pool to see Acoustic Stew fire up the audience. A fundraiser for Hastings Park & Pool, the event led off with performances from Denny & Ken and Nag Champions Mystery Band before my arrival. Acoustic Stew – singer and acoustic guitarist Jaime Dubetsky, electric guitarist and flute player Tim Homerski, bassist Bill Kibler and drummer Kim Dull – mixed together a tasty musical stew of classic rock, country and other hits. The group's set list this night spanned from Eric Clapton's "Let It Rain" to Rusted Root's "Ecstasy" and "Send Me on My Way," Dwight Yoakam's "Guitars, Cadillacs" to the Rolling Stones' "Paint It Black," Steely Dan's "Reeling in the Years" to Men At Work's "Down Under" (with Tim on flute) and almost everything in between. Acoustic Stew's musicianship, vocals and enthusiasm were top notch, and kept the audience dancing and grooving throughout.

The second Mass N Tha Grass Music & Arts Festival happened early last month at the Sinking Valley Fairgrounds in northern Blair County, providing a venue and showcase for the area's indie, alternative music and art community to spotlight their creations. I attended the event's middle day, Saturday, and witnessed several performers, beginning with singer and songwriter John Peacefire. Singing and playing electric guitar, John showcased his style of psychedelic and socially-charged folk music, singing original songs themed around societal issues, the natural world and mankind's future. Next was my first opportunity to see new Altoona-based rockers The Jaded Lips in action. Singer and guitarist Miles Strong, bassist Hunter James, keyboardist Brett Fanelli and drummer David Applas grooved the crowd with their mix of catchy, grooving original rock songs and one cover. Their songs were solid and infectious; they did such numbers as their debut single "Where Do We Run," along with "Neon Neck," "Miss Sunflower," "Black Lashes," "Whisper Words" and more, plus an edgy read of Bill Withers' "Use Me." From eastern PA, Starboard Sparrows then introduced their retro-toned style of folk and Americana music. All four members sing; TJ Zellers plays lead guitar and banjo, Nesha Parker plays acoustic guitar, ukulele and mandolin; Dave Griffith plays bass; and Jaimie Cavaliere plays ukulele, piano and guitar. Together, the group presented a sound that hinted at 1960s folk-pop flavors (think a modern-day Mamas & Papas) as they did original songs such as "Maybe I'll Figure It Out," "That May Be True," "I Will Stay" and more. Toledo, Ohio's Jojo Stella then dazzled festival onlookers with their edgy blend of funk, rock, blues and groove. Singer and guitarist Christopher Lee Metchis, drummer Dan Konold and bassist David Morris brought the funk, soul and jam rock vibe hard. Christopher delivered a sassy and soulful voice up front, and all three musicians explored and improvised on their instruments, resulting in exciting passages throughout their set. Jojo Stella finished strong with a smoking rendition of Traffic's "Dear Mr. Fantasy." The Roof finished the day's outdoor music with their own distinctive blend of soul, rock and jam elements. Singer and guitarist Frank Musaraca, lead guitarist Jake Finkbiner, bassist Ivan Zvorsky, drummer Skyler Scholl and guest percussionist Rich Stever (from Lenina Crowne) mixed original songs with select covers. The group did their current single, "We Sure Did," as well as "Satisfied" and some newer originals, and covered several Grateful Dead selections, as well as Tyler Childers' "Whitehouse Road" and Marshall Tucker Band's "Can't You See." Philadelphia-based comedian Quan Tate generated some laughter as the entertainment transitioned inside, where I saw the fest's primary organizer, Sascha Frost, with his solo electronica project Memory Collector. Sporting his masked persona, Sascha performed his original music creations, including many from his latest Memory Collector album "Future Eyes." Memory Collector's beats and grooves triggered dancing from the night owl crowd to close out the night's music. Hats off to Sascha and everyone who coordinated to make Mass N Tha Grass happen; it was heartening to see this venue and situation for area musical and artistic creativity come alive, as well as a large turnout to support it! Watch for the return of Mass N Tha Grass in 2022.

As reported in last month's column, several benefit concerts happened recently to help Harpo and Sucker Punch guitarist Chris Silvagni, who was diagnosed earlier this year with pancreatic cancer. One of those benefits was last month's "Ride 4 Rico" bike run and post-party. Starting at Horsepower Harley-Davidson in Williamsport, the ride finished at the Susquehanna Valley Big Twins Motorcycle Club near Lock Haven. There, several bands performed on two stages, and a Chinese auction and memorabilia raffle took place, with all proceeds going to the Chris Silvagni Foundation to help Chris in his cancer battle. Cass and Crew and Voyager started the afternoon's music; LeadFoot was just under way as I arrived. They were doing Four Horsemen's "Rockin' Is Ma Business," and their business of rocking was good as LeadFoot kept folks excited and grooving with 80s-era fare from Ratt, Warrant, Def Leppard, Poison, Motley Crue, Guns N'Roses, their extended version of Quiet Riot's "Metal Health" (which veered into a hip-hop midsection) and more. Next was August with their set of arena rock classics. Hybrid Ice's Bob Richardson fronts this group on lead vocals and keys, flanked by guitarist Shane Jones, bassist Lee Baird and drummer Rich Tressler. Kicking off with Led Zeppelin's "Kashmir," August kept the rocking steady with

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The Professor continued...

numbers from Van Halen, Bryan Adams, Great White, Loverboy, Judas Priest and more. Williamsport hair band rockers HairBourne got a few songs into their set before a fierce thunderstorm blew through and halted festivities for over an hour. What I did hear from HairBourne sounded good, as they did Ratt's "Round and Round," Shotgun Messiah's "Heartbreak Boulevard" and Dokken's "Unchain the Night." After the rains cleared out and the memorabilia raffle took place, music resumed with Williamsport-based trio Mum's the Word. Rooted in the blues, guitarist Shane Kelly-Woodward, bassist and sax player Steve Reeser and drummer Mike Mummey played a feisty selection of rip-roaring blues, blues-rock and boogie. Their set included numbers from Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Cream, rowdy versions of Cab Calloway's "Minnie the Moocher" and the blues standard "Rollin and Tumblin,'" and more. The Mason Dixon Band then kept the crowd excited with their classic-rocking set. The cast of guitarist and singer Gary Lynn, drummer Tim Aikey, bassist Tom Boatman and lead singer and guitarist Chris Johns did numbers from CCR, ZZ Top, Pink Floyd and Lynyrd Skynyrd. Adding humor to their performance was Gary sporting speedo-like shorts on the stage after saying he would wear them if the crowd raised $1,000; a late donation pushed the total raised to $1,130. And AC/DC tribute Halfway to Hell closed out the benefit. With vocalists Forrest Kline and Don Shoener in the Bon Scott and Brian Johnson singing roles respectively, plus guitarist Tony Harlan as a convincing Angus Young, Halfway to Hell performed favorites from throughout the AC/DC catalog. An added highlight was Harpo's Richard Smith making a guest appearance behind the drum kit during "Highway to Hell." It was great to see the large turnout, support and love for Chris throughout this day. Capping this leg of Team Silvagni's "Too Much Is Just Enough" benefit campaign, Ride 4 Rico raised a total of $21,000 to help Chris Silvagni; watch for more benefits and fundraisers to be announced soon.

After most fairs were cancelled last year due to COVID-19, county fair season returned to full swing this year, and I caught music at three area fairs in consecutive weeks. The Bedford County Fair in late July resumed live music on their grandstand stage, enabling me to catch my first look at The Kenton Sitch Band. Namesake Kenton on lead vocals and guitar, guitarist Brett Rodkey, bassist Jack Gassler and drummer Jaymeson Rowles blended country-geared original songs with country and rock'n'roll favorites. The group did all five songs off Kenton's recently-released EP "My First Truck," as well as songs from Jon Pardi, Jason Aldean, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Tim McGraw, Eric Church, John Mellencamp, Tom Petty, Dwight Yoakam, Queen and more. Their presentation was tight-sounding and enthusiastic, and the audience responded with cheers throughout the evening.

The following week was my annual trek to the annual Clearfield County Fair to see the double-bill of Jackyl and The Kentucky Headhunters on the grandstand stage. Prior to that concert, I caught entertainer Taylor Mason's performance on the Grove stage. A ventriloquist, singer, keyboard player and comedian, Taylor kept the audience laughing with his jokes and banter with several of his "dummies" – a sock puppet, a pig and a boy. He also did several novelty songs, such as "Yes I Am," "Heavy Metal Lullaby," "Take Out the Garbage" and more…Later at the grandstand, the Kentucky Headhunters led off the concert with their hearty mixture of country, country rock and southern rock. Lead singer and bassist Doug Phelps, lead singer and rhythm guitarist Richard Young, Fred Young on drums and Greg Martin on lead guitar played several of their best-known hits such as "Walk Softly on This Heart of Mine," "Oh Lonesome Me" and "It's Chitlin Time," as well as other favorites like "Stumblin'" and "Some Folks Like to Steal." They introduced a funny new Christmas season tune called "Let's All Get Together and Fight," and showed their blues chops on versions of "House of the Rising Sun" and "Have You Ever Loved a Woman." After Fred pounded out an impressive drum solo display, the group finished off with their version of Norman Greenbaum's "Spirit in the Sky" and their popular hit "Dumas Walker." Jackyl followed with their rowdy set, mixing hard-rocking hits and favorites. Singer Jesse James Dupree took charge of the audience from the get-go, welcoming them to the "PA-Jackyl 2021 Reunion," flanked by guitarist Jeff Worley, bassist Roman Glick and drummer Chris Worley. Jackyl roused the crowd with hit anthems such as "Down on Me," "Push Comes to Shove," "I Stand Alone," "When Will It Rain" and "Dirty Little Mind"; and they did favorites such as "My Moonshine Kicks Your Cocaine's Ass," "Back Off Brother," the ballad "Secret of the Bottle" and "Redneck Punk." Of course, the set built to the anticipated finale, "Lumberjack" – with Greg Martin of the Kentucky Headhunters joining in on guitar, Jesse grabbed his musical chainsaw and went to work on a wooden stool as he howled the words to the song, and finished by setting the stool on fire and smashing it on the stage to the delight of the crowd. Jesse and Jackyl then stuck around and greeted fans at the merchandise table for well over an hour after the performance.

And I drove through thunderstorms and downpours to get to last month's annual Huntingdon County Fair to see Beaver County-based bluegrass performers Echo Valley. A farm-based family group currently comprised of five sisters and a brother, Echo Valley blended beautiful vocal harmonies and excellent musicianship over two sets of traditional and gospel bluegrass, folk, pop standards and more. Elizabeth on acoustic guitar, Emily on fiddle, Olivia and David on banjos, Emmaline on upright bass, and Annamae on mandolin (a sixth sister, Isabelle, is currently on leave from the group as she prepares to get married) played such numbers as Jimmy Fortune's "I Believe," Christopher Stewart's "Paul and Peter Walked," Walt Aldridge's "Ain't No Ash Will Burn," "Walking in Jerusalem" and other gospel-flavored songs. They also did renditions of the Chordettes' "Lollipop," The Carpenters' "Top of the World," Frank Sinatra's "Fly Me to the Moon," original songs and more. Each of the musicians were spotlighted during the course of the performance, and the group shared stories about life on their farm, the adventures of being a musical family, and "Hee Haw"-like jokes and comic relief along the way.

The Keystone Regional Fire Rescue Department in Cresson hosted the six-night Cresson Community Carnival last month. Longtime area group Crossfire kicked off the music on the first night, Monday, with their mix of classic country, bluegrass and more. Most of the band's current members sing; Bob Fitzpatrick plays pedal steel, Jack Fitzpatrick plays guitar, Allan Fitzpatrick plays drums, Sam Chilcote plays lead guitar, and Mark Keiter plays bass. Performing as the sun set, Crossfire was in the midst of a version of "Roll in My Sweet Baby's Arms" as I first arrived. The group continued with their mix of country, honky-tonk, tear-in-beer ballads and more; doing numbers from George Jones, Hank Williams and Hank II, Buck Owens, Ricky Van Shelton, Moe Bandy and others. Crossfire's presentation was relaxed and fun; you could tell these guys were enjoying their musicmaking, joking with one another, honoring requests and providing a happy musical backdrop for this community event.

I took in two editons of the "Rockin' the Yard" summer concert series at the upper parking lot of Altoona's Jaffa Shrine, raising money for Shriners Children's Hospital, Blair/Clearfield Association for the Blind and FC814 youth soccer. The July 23 edition featured Aerosmith tribute Last Child and Felix & the Hurricanes. The Hurricanes kicked things off in strong fashion with their blend of original songs, classic rock, southern rock and more. Highlights included their versions of the Allman Brothers' "Dreams" and Blackfoot's "Train Train" (with Felix Kos' chugging steam engine guitar intro), their merging of Ted Nugent's

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"Stranglehold" into Focus' "Hocus Pocus," and the ZZ Top double-shot of "Heard It on the X" and "Blue Jean Blues" toward set's end. New York City-based Aerosmith tribute Last Child then delivered the Aerosmith party. From the opening seconds of "Back in the Saddle," it was clear that this band was in the saddle and had the audience's full attention. The group's singer and 'Steven Tyler,' Ralph Martinez, had the Aerosmith frontman's sound, style and swagger; he nailed Tyler's voice, polecat howl and vocalizations, and did so convincingly enough that you could close your eyes and think you were hearing the real thing! Over two sets, Last Child did most of the time-tested favorites from throughout Aerosmith's career; including old-school 1970s classics like "Toys in the Attic," "Same Old Song and Dance," "Sweet Emotion," their namesake song "Last Child" and others, also later favorites like "Jaded," "Crazy," "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," "Dude Looks Like a Lady," "Livin' on the Edge" and many more. Last Child saved Aerosmith's two longtime iconic favorites for the homestretch, closing out the performance with "Walk This Way" and "Dream On."

"Rockin' the Yard" on August 13 were Downshift and Pat Benatar tribute group Fire & Ice. Stepping in late to open the night when the previously-scheduled opener had to bow out due to injury, Downshift cranked up the rock out the opening gate and fired up the party with their mix of mostly 1980s and 1990s rock. They heated up the crowd with tunes from Tom Petty, Foo Fighters, Billy Idol, Gin Blossoms, Alice In Chains, Smashing Pumpkins, their rocked-up take on Paula Abdul's "Straight Up" into Flock Of Seagulls' "I Ran," Metallica, Ghost, Pantera and many more. Making their return to the Altoona area, Long Island-based Pat Benatar tribute Fire & Ice – recognized and approved by Pat herself – celebrated her music over two sets. Singer Darion showed early and often that she had the voice to bring Pat Benatar's best-known songs to life. Fire & Ice did the essential Pat favorites, opening with "Shadows of the Night" and doing other Pat numbers such as "Treat Me Right," "Promises in the Dark," "I Need a Lover," "You Better Run," "Precious Time," "We Belong," the fiery first set-closer "Hell Is for Children" during the first set. An approaching thunderstorm shortened the group's nightcap set, but they still performed "All Fired Up," "Little Too Late," their title number "Fire and Ice," and closed out the show with "Love Is a Battlefield" and – of course – "Hit Me With Your Best Shot." Fire & Ice sounded strong through it all, with Darion frequently displaying her vocal power and range, and showing total appreciation to the crowd for attending and supporting the show.

Indoors, I enjoyed the return visit of the Reverend Horton Heat to McGarvey's in late July. Emceed by comedian Don Jamieson (of VH1 Classic's "That Metal Show" fame), the show started with Altoona 'dadcore' punk rockers The Snipped and their high-powered set. Virginia's Hackensaw Boys then presented their set of edgy roots music, merging elements of folk and bluegrass with punk-styled spirit. The group performed various original songs, and founding member David Sickmen's son, Jonah, played the charismo (the homemade percussion instrument invented and used during the group's live shows). The Reverend Horton Heat then delivered their rowdy roots-inspired rock'n'roll before the large audience. Jim "Reverend Horton" Heath sang and worked the strings of his Gretsch guitar, joined by longtime bandmate Jimbo Wallace on upright bass and Jonathan Jeter on drums. Opening with their surf-flavored instrumental "Forbidden Jungle," the group fired up the crowd with many of their favorites; including "Rockin' Dog," "Five-O Ford," "Big Red Rocket of Love," "Jimbo Song," "In Your Wildest Dreams," "Teach You How to Eat," "Liquor, Beer and Wine," "Galaxy 500" and more. The group also did the title track from their latest album "Whole New Life," and did feisty treatments of Willie Nelson's "Three Days" and Motorhead's "Ace Of Spades." Another anticipated highlight was the Reverend working his guitar while standing atop Jimbo's bass during "Big Red Rocket." When the McGarvey's crowd demanded an encore, The Reverend Horton Heat responded with their version of "Viva Las Vegas" followed by their frenzied "Psychobilly Freakout."

Everything else I saw recently in a nutshell: P&J Productions/Carysel Entertainment's production "John Lennon 1980" at Altoona's Mishler Theatre…The New Individuals as they played classic rock and pop hits to receptive audiences at Knoebel's Amusement Resort near Elysburg in late July…The Amish Outlaws bringing their wildly entertaining party to McGarvey's… Also Coltt Winter Lepley, The Jaded Lips and Maul inside McGarvey's, and PennSOULvania outside McGarvey's…The Zac Grace Band warming up baseball fans at People's Natural Gas Field in Altoona before the Altoona Curve-Harrisburg Senators game…An accidental downtown Altoona outdoor "doubleheader" featuring young singer and songwriter Ellie Irwin outside JJ Hadley's and Co. Brewers, followed by Indiana-based rockers Midnight Lights across the street at Levity Brewing Co…Avenue Of Kings rocking Drake's Bar & Grill in Huntingdon…And during my recent vacation trip to Lancaster, Leo DiSanto of Vinegar Creek Constituency entertaining passers-by at Kitchen Kettle Village near Intercourse.

continued on next page…

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SIGH I got 'em all in!

The Altoona area music scene was saddened by the unexpected passing of Brian Stotler last month at age 43. Brian was an active part of the Altoona area's punk, hardcore and metal scene, and fronted a number of bands, including FedUp, Revolutionary Front, Dysfunktion and more. He and his bands were frequently involved in all ages shows, as well as various benefits at places like Aldo's and Peter C's. Beyond music, though, Brian was a personality off the stage, with an irreverent sense of humor that could easily trigger laughing fits for others. He was also an avid fisherman and hunter. He is survived by his parents, wife and two children.

News and notes…Black Cat Moan, Jeff Perigo & Friends, Lauren & Joe, Shades Of June and the West Hills Allstars are a few of many performers at the 2nd annual Homegrown Music Festival, happening Sept. 11 at Lorain Borough Park in Johnstown; proceeds help out the Community Foundation…Allman Brothers tribute group An Evening With…, Black Ridge, Fuse, Curtis and the Shakerz, Alyssa Hankey and Crawdad Joe are among numerous performers taking part in the E-Train Music Festival on Sept. 25 at Cherry Runn Lodge in Homer City; proceeds benefit the New

Josh Saussaman of Buckskin Whiskey

Jim "Reverand Horton" Heath

Echo Valley

Alexandria Fire Department…Popular former Altoona-based rockers Flight 19 reunite for "One Last Time at the Casino" on Sept. 4 at The Casino at Altoona's Lakemont Park; proceeds will benefit Air Force Mothers…The Jakobs Ferry Stragglers announced the departure of upright bass player Niko Kreider as he devotes more attention to his woodworking business in West Virginia; replacing him is Trish Imbrogno…Area musician Pat McGinnis has completed his coast-to-coast "Salt to Salt" cross-country bicycling journey; starting near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco in late May, Pat bicycled through California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Virginia, arriving at Virginia Beach and the Atlantic Ocean on August 2. According to Pat, new songs and a possible album inspired by his adventures may be forthcoming.

Please send correspondence and recordings to: Jim Price, 1104 S. Catherine St., Altoona, PA 16602. You can also e-mail me at jptheprofessor@gmail.com. And if you're into social networking, look me up on Facebook. Keep washing those hands and wearing those masks, and SUPPORT LOCAL MUSIC!

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PA MUSICIAN REVIEWS

By Jim Price

SMALL TOWN TITANS – THE RIDE (AntiFragile Music) York's Small Town Titans have been a constant force on the rise during the past decade, expanding their reach to national and even international acclaim. Their latest full-length album, The Ride, continues that ride with its hearty display of visceral, hard-hitting rock over 10 tracks. The power trio of singer and bassist Phil Freeman, guitarist Ben Guiles and drummer Jonny Ross deliver full firepower throughout the album, crafting rock anthems that mix tough melodies with rigid arrangements, tight instrumental execution and Phil's dynamic multi-range voice. Phil's expressive vocals are incredible here, ranging from high-powered polecat howls and screams to bold baritone growls and everything in between. "Rufflin' Feathers" delivers an instant haymaker to the jaw to open the album, as Phil rants about the current state of societal discourse and the chaos stemming from it. The heavy rumbler "The Man" establishes personal turf and the line that shouldn't be crossed; and with its hints of choral Queen, "Behind the Moon" provides a bold and infectious anthem. With its slight Soundgarden flavor, "Let Me Breathe" progresses as a lyrical quest for personal space and individuality, while the milder-toned "9 to 5" offers an ode to blue-collar life and the struggles of the working man. "When It All Comes Down" presents a thrash-driven throwdown, and Small Town Titans flexes their blues muscles on "Junkie for You (Hey Mama)." The group updates an earlier number, "Universal Limits," and gives a grungy blues makeover to Marcy Playground's 1990s favorite "Sex and Candy." With its evolving and intensifying arrangement, the expansive 8-minute, album-finishing title track "The Ride" shares some lyrical philosophy about this journey called life. Small Town Titans fire on all cylinders here; beyond Phil's potent pipes, his bass work and Jonny's powerhouse drumming work in tandem to cement the album's foundational grooves, and Ben's chunky guitar riffs and timely solo work add explosiveness and spark. Stellar song material, engaging performances, and broad and thunderous production combine to make The Ride an exceptional rock album from start to finish. After hearing this, it's no mystery why the Small Town Titans are a rising force poised for greatness. This album delivers the goods! (You can obtain the album through the group's website, www.smalltowntitans.com, and through online music retailers as well.)

SUICIDE PUPPETS – TALES OF LIVING AND DYING ON SLAUGHTER RIDGE ROAD... (Unable Records) Since their beginnings in 2006, Harrisburg's Suicide Puppets have steadily established themselves as one of central PA's top purveyors of intense, punishing heavy metal. On their latest full-length album, Tales of Living and Dying on Slaughter Ridge Road..., the group ups the ante on their songwriting, intensity and focus. The group's sound has evolved into a fusion of industrial-strength power metal with a horror/gothic edge. Thunderous rhythms from bassist Jonny Suicide and drummer Veritas Suicide, plus the scorched-earth guitar roar generated by six-stringers Steven Suicide, Tattuicide and Donnie Von Gailinger, set the fierce backdrop for the brutal growl of frontman Twisty Suicide. Electronics and samples lend an eerie feel to the group's dynamic; while lyrically, the album sets a loose theme of the explorations of anger, hatred and violence. Real life horror informs several of the songs – the driving "6 Sex 6" offers an audio portrait of serial killer Richard Ramirez, while Green River Killer Gary Ridgeway is the focus of "Murder in Green," and a gruesome Pennsylvania murder and dismemberment is referenced on "Hate You Right Back." The group analyzes extreme anger and hate on numbers such as "Man in Black," "Blacker Day" (with Ministry's John Bechdel contributing keys), "Your Love/My Hate" and the album-closer "Still Bleeding." Suicide Puppets also address religious hypocrisy on "Jesus Loves Me," and ponder the psychology of military training on "A.R.M.E.D." The album also includes one cover, as the group ratchets up the intensity on Real Life's 1983 new wave hit "Send Me an Angel." While the overall dynamic is punishing and brutal, Suicide Puppets show a knack for melody and variation that keeps this album interesting from start to end. The songs have direction and purpose, and Twisty Suicide's snarling vocals are intelligible and coherent. The production gives Suicide Puppets ample firepower and thunder, yet the mix is clean and crisp, and vocals and instruments come through distinct and clear. Suicide Puppets further define their identity and focus here; Tales of Living and Dying on Slaughter Ridge Road might not be for the musical faint of heart, but it does reveal Suicide Puppets' artistry and mastery of their distinctive, heavy-hitting musical turf. (The album can be obtained through Amazon and other online music platforms.)

MARSHMELLOW OVERCOAT – JUMPING SHARKS (no label) "Classic Rock for Today" is the tagline of Bradford-based rock group Marshmellow Overcoat. More than a decade ago, singer, songwriter, guitarist and piano player Tyler Calkins set out to craft a sound based on the songwriting techniques of the 1960s and 70s, and incorporate that sound into a more contemporary style. His band vehicle for pursuing that musical journey, Marshmellow Overcoat further hones that musical vision on their latest album, Jumping Sharks. Tyler, guitarist Alan Hancock, bassist Dave Verbocy and drummer Anthony Cavallero introduce ten catchy songs that effectively merge classic-styled songcraft with a current, guitar and piano-driven edge. And they seamlessly accomplish it; efficient melodies, vocal harmonies, backbeats and subtle hints of lyrical psychedelia recall the style of 1960s hit-making, nicely powered by the group's upbeat and uptempo approach. With Tyler's sandy, raspy voice not far removed from both John Lennon and Micky Dolenz, Marshmellow Overcoat proudly channels Beatles and Monkees flavors on many of the songs; notably the uptempo "Really Coming Home," "We've Got to Roll" and the Dave-fronted "What I Love." The group taps a driving Rolling Stones edge on "Reason to Stay," and the harmonies and cheerful melody of "The Best Thing" recall the pop styles of The Association and the Mamas & Papas. Influenced by piano stars Elton John and Billy Joel, Tyler incorporates a similar piano-rock vibe into the hopeful-themed "Through the Night." And with their band name derived from a monicker The Band once considered using during their formative period, Marshmellow Overcoat infuses such numbers as "Stop You Now," "Hope You'll Understand" and the album-ending "At the End of the Day" with hints of The Band. Showing less of a retro tone, the harder-edged album-opener "Smoke Screen" addresses the current societal climate of information and misinformation. The group learns from the past well; these songs are infectious, tight and to the point. All four musicians' performances are sharp and enthusiastic; and vocals, harmonies, guitars and piano meld smoothly together. Recorded at GCR and Mammoth Recording Studios in Buffalo, the album sounds bright, balanced and full. While the past provides the foundation for their song creations, Marshmellow Overcoat infuses those influences into their own distinctive identity on Jumping Sharks, a solid, cohesive and pleasant listen. (The album can be obtained through Marshmellow Overcoat's website, www.marshmellowovercoat.com, or through the group's Bandcamp page.)

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